

Appl. No. 09/943,749

Amdt. Dated July 26, 2004

Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of July 23, 2004

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An article comprising:

a first fiber bundle ~~other than a corespun fiber bundle, said fiber bundle~~ formed of an intimate blend of fibers, all said fibers being oriented substantially normal to a cross section of said fiber bundle, at least about 5% of the fibers comprising fibers having a tensile breaking strength of at least about 10 g/Denier, the fiber bundle being constructed with said about 5% of the fibers being aligned with and having direct and intimate contact with the remaining fibers of said fiber bundle such that upon exposure to a fabric dye, the fiber bundle is dyed to an essentially visually uniform color density.

Claims 2-6 (Canceled)

8. (Original) The article as in claim 1, wherein the at least about 5% of the plurality of fibers comprising fibers having a tensile breaking strength of at least about 10 g/Denier are formed of a material selected from the group consisting of: para-aramids; liquid crystal polyesters; ultra-high molecular weight polyethylenes; and poly(p-phenylene-2,6-benzobisoxazole) (PBO).

Claims 9-16 (Canceled)

17. (Previously presented) The article as in claim 1, wherein at least one fiber of the plurality has a tensile breaking strength of less than about 10 g/Denier and said fiber is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of: polyamides; cellulosic materials; polyesters; acrylic polymers; and polyolefins.

18. (Original) The article as in claim 1, wherein the fabric dye is selected from the group consisting of: cationic dyes; anionic dyes; and polyester dyes.

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19. (Original) The article as in claim 1, wherein the fiber bundle is formed of a plurality of spun staple fibers.

20. (Original) The article as in claim 19, wherein the fiber bundle is formed by a Cotton System spinning process and the length of the staple fibers does not exceed about 2 inches.

21. (Original) The article as in claim 19, wherein the fiber bundle is formed by a Worsted System spinning process and the length of the staple fibers exceeds about 2 inches.

22. (Original) The article as in claim 19, wherein the fiber bundle has a primary twist multiplier of at least about 2.7.

Claims 23-27 (Canceled)

28. (Original) The article as in claim 19, wherein any given cross-section of the fiber bundle along its length includes therein between about 60 and about 100 fibers.

29. (Original) The article as in claim 1, wherein the fabric dye and essentially visually uniform color density of the dyed fiber bundle are lighter in color than the undyed color of at least one fiber of the plurality of fibers comprising fibers having a tensile breaking strength of at least about 10 g/Denier.

30 -34. (Canceled)

35. (Original) A woven fabric at least partly formed of the fiber bundle as recited in claim 1.

36. (Original) An article of apparel at least partly formed of the woven fabric as recited in claim 35.

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37. (Original) The article of apparel as in claim 36, wherein the article of apparel is selected from the group consisting of: gloves; aprons; chaps; pants; boots; gators; shirts; jackets; coats; socks; shoes; undergarments; vests; waders; hats; and gauntlets.

38. (Currently amended) A method comprising the steps of:

forming a first fiber bundle with an intimate blend of fibers ~~as other than a corespun fiber bundle, all said fibers being~~ oriented substantially normal to a cross section of said fiber bundle, at least about 5% of the fibers comprising fibers having a tensile breaking strength of at least about 10 g/Denier, the fiber bundle being constructed with said about 5% of the fibers being aligned with and having direct and intimate contact with the remaining fibers of said fiber bundle, and

dyeing said fiber bundle with a fabric dye.

39-73. (Canceled)

74. (Withdrawn) An article as in claim 1, further comprising a second fiber bundle plied with said first fiber bundle as a plied yarn.

75. (Withdrawn) An article as in claim 74, wherein said second fiber bundle is substantially similar in composition and construction to said first fiber bundle.

76. (Withdrawn) An article as in claim 75, wherein said plied yarn is characterized by a secondary ply twist of at least about  $\frac{1}{4}$  that of a primary twist of said first fiber bundle and said second fiber bundle.

77. (Withdrawn) An article as in claim 75, wherein said plied yarn is characterized by a secondary twist of at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  that of a primary twist of said first fiber bundle and said second fiber bundle.

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78. (Withdrawn) An article as in claim 75, wherein said plied yarn is characterized by a secondary ply twist of at least about equal to that of a primary twist of said first fiber bundle and said second fiber bundle.

79. (Previously presented) An article as in claim 1, said article comprising a fabric, said fabric comprising said fiber bundle, said fabric being in weight not more than 10 ounces per square yard.

80. (Canceled)